

Support Group Commander of the 127th Wing of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan, he accomplished another first, as he was the first African American to assume this role as well.

Awards and decorations received by Lieutenant Colonel Millben include the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Award, and the Major General John A. Johnston Award for Excellence. He also received the State of Michigan Award for Continued Support of Vocational Education in 1985 and the Spirit of Detroit Award in 1987. He completed Air Command and Staff College in 1980 and Air War College in 1993. He is married to the former Jean Wilburn and is the father of Sheryl, Patricia Millben-Craft, and Lawrence, Jr.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANCES PRESTON

#### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in offering our congratulations and very best wishes to one of the First Ladies of American music. Frances W. Preston will soon retire as president and Chief Executive Officer of Broadcast Music Inc., (BMI).

The business acumen of Frances Preston is exceeded only by her charisma and charm, and by the respect, affection and admiration her colleagues and peers have for her. She has been lauded for her empathy and for the gracious manner in which she treats every person, from the hottest star to the humblest worker. She is an exceptional executive, leader, role model, and friend.

With Frances at its head, BMI has grown to represent over 300,000 American and foreign songwriters, composers, and music publishers in licensing music and collecting and distributing royalties from play on radio and in television, films, ads and other media. Its artists represent all types of music and its catalog contains 4.5 million works. During her 18 years as president, its revenue has grown more than three times to more than \$625 million.

BMI has become an internationally respected leader and a unique success story as the entertainment industry has been transformed by digital technology and globalization. Sensitive to the changing world of music, Frances has focused on domestic licensing, foreign performing rights, legislation for fair compensation for writers and publishers, and copyright protection.

Frances joined BMI in 1958 after working in music and broadcasting in Nashville. She opened BMI's regional office there, and led her company to preeminence in the South, signing writers and publishers with roots in both country and other types of music.

In 1964, the year the Nashville BMI Building opened on Music Row, Frances became a vice president of BMI—reportedly, the first woman corporate executive in Tennessee.

She has often been called a trailblazer in the music business but Frances was also a trailblazer among women. She was the first woman Rotarian in the State of Tennessee.

She was the first woman to work with the National Chamber of Commerce. She was one of the first four women—and the first businesswoman—to be invited to join the Friars Club in New York and the first woman to serve on their board of governors.

Frances moved to BMI's New York office in 1985. She was appointed Senior Vice President, Performing Rights in 1985 and President and CEO in 1986. She is a member of BMI's Board of Directors.

In 1992, in recognition of the important role she played in building Nashville's music industry, she received the highest accolade in Country music: induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. In 2004, she was also inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. She is a lifetime member of the board of directors of the Country Music Association—one of only five individuals to be so honored—and has served as president and chairperson of the board. She is also a lifetime board member of the Gospel Music Association, where she served as chairperson and president, as well as a lifetime member of the Nashville Songwriters Association International.

Frances is vice president of the National Music Council and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Academy of Popular Music/Songwriters Hall of Fame, a board member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and a director and member of the executive committee of the Broadcasters' Foundation.

Frances' many interests and her expertise extend far beyond the music industry. A distinguished member of business and political circles, she served on President Jimmy Carter's Panama Canal Study Committee, the commission for the White House Record Library, and Vice President Albert Gore's National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council.

She has given selflessly of her time and resources to many of America's most worthy charities. She is President of the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer and AIDS Research and the recipient of its 1992 Humanitarian Award. She is an activist and a philanthropist who became involved in the fight against cancer after the disease claimed her close friend and ski instructor. The Frances Williams Preston Research Laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center is named in her honor, as is Vanderbilt's Frances Williams Preston Building, the focal point for the VICC's research.

Included among other awards far too numerous to list, Preston has received the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) Achievement Award, presented to only five women each year, honoring her as one of "America's outstanding women in business and labor." She has been honored with the Broadcasters' Foundation's Golden Mike Award, and the President's Award from the National Music Publishers' Association in recognition of her contributions to the music and music publishing industries.

Preston was singled out by Esquire magazine as "the most influential and powerful person in the country music business." Ladies' Home Journal listed her as one of the "50 Most Powerful Women In America" and Entertainment Weekly placed her second in its Top 10 listing of "The Powers of Country Music." Over the years, Business Nashville, BAM, Radio Ink and Hits have listed her as one of the most powerful people in the music industry. In 1997, she was one of only ten busi-

nesswomen featured in Rolling Stone's "Women in Rock" special issue.

Frances has been a partner and strong supporter to those of us in Congress who care about copyright protection. She has vigorously supported the fight against music piracy and vigorously guarded against any legislation that would reduce the rights and incomes of songwriters, composers and publishers.

I am honored to congratulate Frances on her retirement and ask my colleagues in the House to join me in wishing her many happy years ahead.

#### PALESTINIAN PARLIAMENT URGES NEEDED REFORMS

#### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Palestinian Parliament for their leadership in demanding reforms in the Palestinian Authority.

By a vote of 43–4, Palestinian lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling on Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei and calling for the formation of a new government that would have greater control over the security forces, the authority to introduce political changes and to combat pervasive corruption. Yesterday's vote marks the emergence of the Palestinian Parliament as a check to Mr. Arafat's political power.

If the Palestinian Authority is to gain legitimacy among its own people and in the world community, the Palestinians themselves must take responsibility for bringing about needed reforms and for establishing an effective security apparatus to combat terrorism and violence.

It is clear by yesterday's action that a new power base dedicated to reducing violence and chaos in the Gaza Strip is emerging, and the United States must encourage and support that effort. I look forward to a renewed commitment in bringing stability to this region.

I am hopeful that seeing the success of this resolution, Palestinian lawmakers will assert themselves in the future to serve the greater interests of the Palestinian people.

#### CONDEMNING ATTACK ON AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, IN JULY 1994

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2004*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, a terrorist bomb destroyed the headquarters of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, known by its Spanish acronym, AMIA, killing 85 people and wounding 200. To this day, the attack on the AMIA remains the deadliest anti-Semitic incident since World War II.

I take this opportunity to condemn the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in